

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 06512 311601Z

70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

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R 311535Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1606

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 6512

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT YO

SUBJ: SERBIAN LAW AND PLANS TO REMOVE PROFESSORS

REF: BELGRADE 5817

1. PRESIDENT OF SERBIAN PRESIDENCY DRAGOSLAV MARKOVIC IN DEC 31 POLITIKA INTERVIEW EXPLAINED RECENT REVISIONS IN SERBIAN LAW ON HIGHER EDUCATION (REFTEL), IN CONTEXT OF PROBLEMS AT BELGRADE PHILOSOPHICAL FACULTY, AS BASED ON "POSSIBILITY OF REMOVING A NUMBER OF PROFESSORS FROM THAT FACULTY AND APPOINTING THEM TO WORK IN OTHER SCIENTIFIC OR PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTIONS."

2. MARKOVIC ALSO CRITICIZED "PROTESTS AND INTERVENTIONS" FROM "PROFRSSORS AND INSTUTIONS IN SCANDINAVIA, GREAT BRITAIN, THE UNITED STATES, AND OTHER COUNTRIES". THOSE PROTESTING "ARE STILL VERY FAR AWAY FROM THE FREEDOMS AND RIGHTS ENJOYED BY OUR FACULTIES, PROFESSORS, AND STUDENTS", HE SAID, CITING IN PARTICULAR ELECTION OF YUGOSLAV PROFESSORS BY FACULTY COUNCILS IN CONTRAST TO ELECTION BY NON-UNIVERSITY BODIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

3. COMMENT: SO FAR AS WE KNOW, THIS IS FIRST EXPLANATION OF LAW CHANGES TO APPEAR IN LOCAL PRESS. (CHANGES TOOK EFFECT NOV 28).

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PARTICULARLY IN CONTEXT OF MORE SPECIFIC ATTACKS ON

BELGRADE EIGHT OVER PAST FEW WEEKS, THIS SEEMS INDICATION THAT
CONCRETE MOVE AGAINST EIGHT MAY BE PLANNED IN NOT-TOO-DISTANT
FUTURE.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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